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Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RICHARD BURR, a Senator from the State of North Carolina.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Our God, Creator of all life, we come in thankfulness because You have loved us through all the days of our lives. We find peace in the knowledge that You know us and accept us as we are. Thank You for enabling us to run and not be weary, to walk and not faint. Keep us always in Your care.

Bless our Senators. Forgive them when they make mistakes and give them comfort when they feel downhearted. Keep them from selfishness. Give them wisdom and courage to live each day as Your children and as brothers and sisters to each other.

God, bless our Nation, drive back the forces of evil and release the powers of goodness throughout our land.

We pray in Your strong Name, Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable RICHARD BURR led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 9, 2005.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable RICHARD BURR, a Senator from the State of North Carolina, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BURR thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today we will shortly resume consideration of the highway bill. There are a couple of Members desiring to speak on other subjects prior to going back to the highway legislation, and we will accommodate those statements. I will have a brief statement. The Democrat leader has a statement, as well.

Chairman INHOFE will be managing the highway bill today. As we announced prior to the recess, we expect a vote this evening at approximately 5:30 p.m. That vote will be in relation to an amendment on the highway bill. Several Senators have indicated they would be available today to offer amendments. We hope to schedule one of those for a vote this evening.

We are now beginning our second week of work on the highway bill. The managers have patiently waited for Members to come to the Senate to offer their amendments. I am concerned about the pace of the bill. We need to finish the bill this week. I put our colleagues on notice that we will use cloture if necessary to bring this bill to conclusion.

Having said that, be prepared for full sessions to consider and dispose of highway amendments over the next few days. As I think about it, I want to make it clear to our Members, we will be voting throughout this week, including Friday.

With respect to the emergency supplemental appropriations bill, that should now be at the desk. Our expectation is to begin debate on that conference report this evening. I hope any Member who wants to speak will stay this evening for debate in order to schedule a vote on the emergency supplemental appropriations conference report sometime tomorrow, hopefully early tomorrow. I will be consulting further with the Democrat leader on the exact timing but, again, we want to vote as early as possible on Tuesday so we can get back to the highway bill.

I thank our colleagues in advance for their help on these two important measures.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if I could make a brief comment on the highway bill: I agree with the distinguished leader that we need to move forward on this bill. I have been advised over the last several days, and had a couple calls this morning, that they are having problems with the transit section of the bill. Senators SHELBY and SARBANES want a little different formula than is in the bill. They are working on that now as we speak. I hope they can get that worked out. A significant amount of work has gone into the bill not only by members of the Environment and Public Works Committee and the Banking Committee, which has jurisdiction over transit, but also by the Finance Committee. It is a very complicated bill.

I underscore what the distinguished Republican leader said. It is my understanding that Senators BAUCUS and GRASSLEY are going to lay down an amendment today. I hope everyone would offer their amendments on this bill. I have had a lot of comments from

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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